

P-407, 421/CP-87-216 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna
Patrice M. Vick

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of
Certain Subscribers in the
Cannon Falls Exchange for
Extended Area Service to the
Minneapolis/St. Paul
Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: February 27, 1991
DOCKET NO. P-407, 421/CP-87-216
ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 20, 1990, the Commission issued an Order in the Metro EAS Case, Docket No. P-421, 405, 407, 430, 426, 520, 427/CI-87-76. In its Order, the Commission directed the interexchange carriers (IXCs) serving the Cannon Falls exchange and the metro calling area to file point-to-point traffic studies for traffic between the Cannon Falls exchange and the metro calling area. These studies were to be filed within 120 days of the August 20, 1990 Order, i.e. on or before December 18, 1990.

The affected telephone companies required the point-to-point traffic studies in order to conduct their cost studies for EAS between Cannon Falls and the metro calling area. In its August 20, 1990 Order, the Commission required that the affected companies file cost studies and proposed rates within 45 days following the submission of the traffic studies, i.e. on or before February 1, 1991.

On December 17, 1990, the Commission issued an Order in this proceeding clarifying that the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) would have 45 days, or until March 18, 1991, to submit its report and recommendations on the Cannon Falls-Metro EAS petition. Interested parties would have 20 days, or until April 8, 1991, to submit comments.

On January 25, 1991, Contel of Minnesota, Inc. (Contel) submitted a letter to the Commission requesting until March 18, 1991, to file its cost studies and proposed rates for the Cannon Falls-Metro EAS petition. Contel is the local exchange carrier that serves Cannon Falls.

On January 30, 1991, United Telephone Company of Minnesota (United) requested an extension until March 15, 1991 for filing

its cost studies and proposed rates for the Cannon Falls-Metro EAS petition.

On January 31, 1991, U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) requested an extension until March 15, 1991 for filing its cost studies and proposed rates for the Cannon Falls-Metro EAS petition.

On February 5, 1991, Central Telephone Company (Centel) requested an extension until March 22, 1991 for the filing of its cost studies and proposed rates for Cannon Falls-Metro EAS.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In support of its request for additional time, Contel explained that the additional time is required because of the heavy burden of preparing cost studies and proposed rates for all of the exchanges that have petitioned for EAS to the metro calling area, in particular the necessity to file final revised cost studies and proposed rates for the eight exchanges subject to Section 2 of Minn. Stat. § 237.161. The preparation of cost studies and proposed rates for the Cannon Falls exchange is also complicated by the fact that Cannon Falls is in the Rochester LATA. As a result, Contel must obtain traffic data from interLATA IXCs.

In support of its request for additional time, United explained that it has only recently completed arrangements with the interLATA IXCs to obtain the point-to-point traffic studies. Further, the complexity of the issues, the number of telephone companies involved, the numerous EAS proceedings before the Commission and the recent clarification of issues by the Commission necessitates the additional time to adequately assemble the required information.

In its January 31, 1991 request for an extension, USWC explained that it required the extension due to difficulty in obtaining the traffic studies from the IXCs. USWC also requested the Commission's assistance in assuring that all IXCs that carry calls between Cannon Falls and the metro calling area have provided the necessary traffic study information.

In its February 5, 1991 request for an extension until March 22, 1991, Centel explained that it has only recently completed making arrangements to obtain the necessary traffic information.

The Commission finds that the companies' requests for extensions of time are reasonable and should be granted. The reasons for the requests are sound. No party has opposed the extensions. The momentum toward resolution of the Cannon Falls EAS petition is not broken by this time extension. The additional time will

assure more reliable information for the Commission when it sets EAS rates prior to polling affected customers. Neither the public interest nor any party's interests will be prejudiced by the delay.

In addition to requesting additional time to file its cost studies and proposed rates, USWC requested that the Commission provide assistance in assuring that all IXCs that carry calls between Cannon Falls and the metro calling area provide the traffic information required by the Commission's August 20, 1990 Order in this matter. If USWC has reason to believe that some IXCs have not filed the necessary traffic information in compliance with that Order, USWC should bring specifics to the Commission's attention.

ORDER

1. The affected telephone companies are granted until March 22, 1991 to file cost studies and proposed rates in this matter.
2. Within 45 days of the filing date of the cost studies and proposed rates, the Department shall file its report and recommendations.
3. Interested parties are authorized to submit comments within 20 days from the filing of the Department's report.
4. If USWC believes that some IXCs have not filed the necessary traffic information in compliance with that Order, USWC shall bring specifics to the Commission's attention.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)